

The role of grandfathers and grandmothers in children upbringing and challenges – [Asaolu O.S.](#)

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Introduction: Having discussed about fathers and mothers ab initio, the role of grandparents is similar since these are a parent's parents for a child; someone in the older line of parenting or progenitor. Grannies and great-grannies are mentioned and alluded to in scripture, right from the time of Jacob.

Genesis 28:13 *And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;*

Genesis 48:8-11 *And Israel beheld Joseph's sons, and said, who are these? And Joseph said unto his father, they are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place. And he said, Bring them, I pray thee, unto me, and I will bless them. Now the eyes of Israel were dim for age, so that he could not see. And he brought them near unto him; and he kissed them, and embraced them. And Israel said unto Joseph, I had not thought to see thy face: and, lo, God hath shewed me also thy seed.*

Thus, seeing one's grandchild[ren] is a blessing on its own, being able to enjoy and influence such while one is still alive is a privilege.

Thesis: The grandparent is to leave a worthwhile legacy by being a good mentor, guardian and pillar of emotional, material and spiritual support.

Psalms 128:4,6 *Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD... Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.*

Proverbs 13:22 *A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.*

Proverbs 17:6 *Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.*

The divine mandate is not only to train a child in the way he should go (Prov 22:6) but also extends to training one's grandchildren both directly and indirectly. Deuteronomy 4:9 *Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons.*

See also Psalms 78:1-8, most of the Patriarchs were grandpas. Aside Jacob who blessed Joseph's sons, other notable grandparents include Ruth (4:13-17) and Lois (2 Tim 1:5) See also 1 Tim 5:4. Hezekiah was one of the best kings God's people ever had, but his father was Ahaz, and he was one of the worst they ever had. But his grandfather was Jotham, and he did that which was right in the eyes of the Lord. Hezekiah took after his grandfather rather than his father.

In today's world wherein divorce is on the increase and longevity is unpredictable, grandparents are more active and relevant than ever before in stabilizing children in several families. Ideally, a parent should directly raise a child to ensure proper discipline, not pampering. Nevertheless. When inevitable or constrained e.g. early demise of a parent without (responsible) siblings, it becomes expedient for a granny to raise a child when able, otherwise such may be put up for fostering with relatives or adoption in the public. The challenges of such are primarily generational differences of evolving cultural nuances, agility of body and mind to superintend, etc. When fit, such grannies could still do a good job but it is better to allow them be relieved of such responsibility where possible.

Conclusion: Good grandparents allow their children to do the actual parenting of grandchildren but support with prayers, exemplary godly living, scripture and story-telling, advice, trust fund, material inheritance, etc. Grannies should be friendly not grumpy, we should no over-labour them or expect too much from them having passed their prime. Many have physical and mental decline and should equally be assisted to enjoy their last days in peace.

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